

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 1-8 and 12-20 are in this application. Claims 9-11 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant retains the right to present the cancelled claims in a divisional application.

Specification

Applicant has amended the specification for clarity purposes by replacing two occurrences of the term "source electrode" with the term "pixel electrode." Support for this replacement can be found, for example, at page 2, lines 25-26 of the specification.

Applicant has also amended the specification for clarity purposes by replacing the term "source electrode 20c" with the term "pixel electrode 26." Support for this replacement can be found, for example, at page 5, lines 21-22 of the specification.

35 USC § 112

In section 3 of the Action of March 14, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 6-8 because there is insufficient basis for the limitation "the region" in claim 6. Applicant has amended claim 6 to delete the wording "which is extended to the region where the pixel electrode is next to the data line," thus rendering moot the objection of the Examiner.

Claim 1 and APA

In section 4 of the Action of March 14, 2003, the Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA). Although APA does not disclose "an auxiliary electrode" as claimed in claim 1, the Examiner is of the opinion that "using multiple pieces in replacing a single piece" is not an inventive feature, thus concluding that the recitation of a "source electrode" and an "auxiliary electrode" in claim 1 is obvious in view of APA's source electrode 12.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Howard, Larson, and Fridolph cases cited by the Examiner all refer to the integration of different pieces into a single piece, and not to the converse, i.e. using multiple pieces in replacing a single piece. Therefore, using multiple

pieces in replacing a single piece is not equivalent to integrating multiple pieces into one piece. It follows that claim 1 is not obvious in view of APA.

Additionally, even assuming, arguendo, that APA's source electrode can act as an auxiliary electrode, the Examiner should show to the Applicant where, in APA, "the edge of the pixel electrode is disposed on the auxiliary electrode" as claimed in claim 1. In his Action, the Examiner simply repeats the language of Applicant's claim 1 without showing a logical link between such language and APA.

Therefore, claim 1 is deemed to be patentable over APA.

Claim 1 and Kondo

In section 10 of the Action, the Examiner reads Fig. 19 of U.S. Pat. No. 5,737,051 to Kondo to disclose a pixel electrode 2 and a source electrode 1, the latter acting as pixel electrode. Applicant respectfully points out that this reading is incorrect, because Kondo clearly discloses that numeral 1 indicates a pixel electrode, and numeral 2 indicates a common electrode, not a pixel electrode. See Kondo, column 8, line 67.

Additionally, should the Examiner argue that the common electrode 2 in Kondo's Fig. 19 is the integration of "a source electrode" and "an auxiliary electrode" of claim 1, Applicant points out again that using multiple pieces in replacing a single piece is not equivalent to integrating multiple pieces into one piece, as already argued above.

Further, in claim 1, both the "source electrode" and the "auxiliary electrode" are "electrically connected" to the "pixel electrode." Conversely, in Kondo, "the pixel electrode 1 and the common electrode 2 are . . . separated by an insulating layer." (Kondo, column 8, line 67, through column 19, line 2).

Therefore, claim 6 is deemed to be patentable over Kondo.

Claim 6 and APA

In section 8 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA). Applicant respectfully disagrees, also in view of the amended language of claim 6, which now recites "an edge

of the pixel electrode . . . *parallel to the data line* . . . disposed on the source electrode.” Should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner should show to the Applicant where such feature is either shown in or rendered obvious by APA.

Therefore, claim 6 is deemed to be patentable over APA.

Claim 6 and Kondo

In section 13 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) in view of Kondo. The Applicant respectfully disagrees, because using multiple pieces in replacing a single piece is not equivalent to integrating multiple pieces into one piece, as already discussed above.

Additionally, even admitting, *arguendo*, that Kondo's pixel electrode 1 can act as a pixel electrode and as a source electrode at the same time, such electrode does not show the feature of “an edge of the pixel electrode . . . *disposed on* the source electrode,” as claimed in claimed 6, because claiming that an element is *disposed on* itself would be absurd.

Further, by comparing sections 10 and 13 of the Examiner's Action, Applicant respectfully points out that the Examiner cannot argue Kondo in two different ways. The Examiner should respectfully limit his objections and/or rejections to the real extent of Kondo's disclosure.

Therefore, claim 6 is deemed to be patentable over Kondo.

Claims 2-5 and 7-8

Applicant believes that claims 1 and 6 are patentable in view of the cited art. Claims 2-5 depend on claim 1 and claims 7-8 depend on claim 6. As a consequence, those claims are also deemed to be patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 6.

Claims 12-20

New claims 12-20 have been introduced. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Support for new claim 12 can be found in Figures 2A and 3A. Support for

new claims 13 and 17 can be found in claim 2 as originally filed. Support for new claim 14 can be found in the Figures and at page 5, lines 10-12 of the specification. Support for new claim 15 can be found in Figure 2A. Support for new claims 16 and 18 can be found in Figures 2B-2C, and at page 5, lines 21-25 of the specification. Support for new claim 19 can be found in Figure 3A. Support for new claim 20 can be found in Figure 2A. Applicant submits that claims 12-20 are patentable in view of the cited art.

For the reasons explained above, favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,



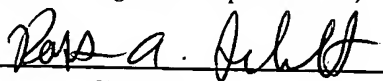
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Enclosures - Postcard
Check
Fee calculation sheet

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop AF, P.O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 11, 2003.

Ross A. Schmitt

(Name of Registered Representative)



Signature

June 11, 2003

Date